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Serious difficulties arose when many non-members refused to have their children attend schools in buildings by the Mormons for their religious worship. As a result national schools were established. These church schools a subtle missionary effort on the part of the various religions they boasted free tuition, something the poor Mormons hard to compete with.

In 1885, the New West Education Commission Congregational Church, opened a school in Midway attended because there was no tuition charge. The trained, with most of them coming from the east. Teachers at the New West school were Anna Viola LaRose, Elizabeth Jones from Wesleyan College of Massachusetts. Other teachers through the years included Miss Anna Caldwell, Rena Clark, Frances Buck, Geneva Green, Lizzie Abbott Bond, Jesse Hunt, Emma Abbott, Sarah E. Jones.

New West School Teachers in  
Midway from 1885 to 1889:  
1886-1899

Anna Viola LaRose of Illinois  
Elizabeth Jones from Wesleyan College  
of Massachusetts

Etta Hunt

Miss Anna Slosson

Mrs. J. C. Caldwell

Rena Clark

Frances Buck

Geneva Green

Lizzie Abbott Bond

Jesse Hunt

Emma Abbott

Sarah E. Jones

Ref.: ABUM pp 600-601

Wooden ship/ap construction

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Search  
Project: Van Wagoner Hall - Midway

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What To do or Who To ask:

1. Picture - HBUM p 601
2. Where was it located
3. Talk to Paul Van Wagoner
4. " " El Roy "
5. Good pict - p 601 803-4
6. Copy HBUM pp 803-4

Date  
Done

3-18-88

10-24-87

11-6-87



Midway's New West School conducted in Van Wagoner Hall in 1900

601





hauling rock or coal, working with a team, assisting the mason or by paying a few dollars toward the teacher's salary.

Even though taxes were to pay the costs of the school, many found difficulty in paying them in cash. So more often than not, the pupils attended by paying tuition. The teachers received their salaries by living with families of the students and by accepting produce, potatoes, wheat, flour, or most any other product that they could use.

The new school was completed in time for the 1868-69 school term, and Attewall Wootton, Sr. was hired as the new principal. He was a well-trained educator, and possessed a keen mind. At the age of six he had read "The Book of Mormon." Because of his aptitude, he was given every opportunity for learning that pioneer life could afford. He quickly mastered all that his teachers knew, and soon became a teacher himself. His first assignment was in the schools of American Fork.

After his marriage to Cynthia J. Jewett, one of his classmates, Mr. Wootton drove a herd of cattle into Wasatch County for his stepfather, and decided to settle in Midway. He became principal of the new school and served until 1887 when he became Superintendent of Schools in Wasatch County, a position which he held for many years. Three generations of Wasatch County residents were trained under his direction.

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As was the case in all pioneer communities, the Church and the school shared the same facilities. While this was the most practical use of the building in Midway, it was the source of considerable trouble beginning about 1869.

This was the year that the transcontinental railroad was completed through Utah, and with the new "iron horses" came many non-members of the Church. A great number of these people of other religious beliefs settled in or near Midway because of the mining boom that resulted in Park City and other places in Wasatch County.

Serious difficulties arose when many non-members of the Church refused to have their children attend schools in buildings that were used by the Mormons for their religious worship. As a result, many denominational schools were established. These church schools were also a subtle missionary effort on the part of the various religious groups, since they boasted free tuition, something the poor Mormon pioneers found hard to compete with.

In 1885, the New West Education Commission, a society of the Congregational Church, opened a school in Midway. Many pupils attended because there was no tuition charge. The teachers were well trained, with most of them coming from the east. Some of the first teachers at the New West school were Anna Viola La Rose from Illinois, Elizabeth Jones from Wesleyan College of Massachusetts and Etta Hunt. Other teachers through the years included Miss Anna Slosson, Mrs. J. C. Caldwell, Rena Clark, Frances Buck, Geneva Green, Lizzie Abbott Bond,

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#### KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

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